

OUTGOING MESSAGE

Approved For Release 2005/04/21 : CIA-RDP78S01932A000100080039-8

SIGNAL CENTER USE ONLY

AGE COI ACP TOL TP- MRO DCI TRI

SCM 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0

CIA/OCI/WHIZ 740825

GROUP

CITE

MESSAGE REFERENCE NUMBER

CIA/WHSS

SOURCE REF:

1		4		7		10	
2		5		8		11	
3		6		9		12	

INVOLVED

ITEM NO: ①

DATE: AUGUST 25, 1974

SUBJECT: LAOS -- SOUVANNA OFF TO FRANCE; KAY REPORTEDLY TO
BE RELEASED

REF :

PRIME MINISTER SOUVANNA PHOUMA LEFT VIENTIANE EARLY TODAY
FOR SEVERAL MONTHS CONVALESCENCE IN FRANCE. HE IS TRAVELLING
ABOARD A SPECIAL MEDICALLY-EQUIPPED AND STAFFED CARAVELLE
AIRCRAFT PROVIDED BY THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT.

ON THE HOMEFRONT, MEANWHILE, THE PATHET LAO HAVE STATED

DPMO DECLASSIFICATION/RELEASE
INSTRUCTIONS ON FILE

AGE

RELEASING OFFICER
CLASSIFICATION

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COORDINATING OFFICERS

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CLASSIFICATION

PAGE 3

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CITE

MESSAGE REFERENCE NUMBER

SOURCE REF:

82-1002	1		4		7		10	
	2		5		8		11	
	3		6		9		12	

PUBLICLY THAT US CIVILIAN CONTRACT PILOT EMMET KAY WILL BE AMONG THE FIRST GROUP OF PRISONERS-OF-WAR TO BE RELEASED ON SEPTEMBER 12. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, THE ANNOUNCEMENT WAS MADE IN VIENTIANE YESTERDAY BY THE DEPUTY CHIEF OF THE LAO COMMUNIST CONTINGENT ON THE COALITION GOVERNMENT'S JOINT CENTRAL COMMISSION TO IMPLEMENT THE AGREEMENT. HE REPORTEDLY TERMED KAY'S REPATRIATION A "HUMANITARIAN AND GOODWILL GESTURE." 4

LIKE THE PATHET LAO INITIATIVE ON PRISONER EXCHANGES ITSELF, THE REPORTED PLAN FOR KAY'S EARLY RELEASE COMES AS A SURPRISE. THE COMMUNISTS HAD CONSISTENTLY ARGUED THAT THEY DID NOT CONSIDER HIM A PRISONER-OF-WAR BECAUSE HIS CAPTURE LAST MAY OCCURRED AFTER THE CEASE-FIRE AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED. MOREOVER, THERE WERE INDICATIONS THAT THE PATHET LAO MIGHT TRY TO LINK HIS EVENTUAL RELEASE TO POLITICAL CONCESSIONS BY WASHINGTON.

E-2 IMPDET.

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RELEASING OFFICER

COORDINATING OFFICERS

AUTHENTICATING OFFICER

CLASSIFICATION

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